BENGALURU, SATURDAY, JANUARY 1, 2022 www.Bangaloremirror.com 12 Pages PRICE ₹3

Bangalore Mirror

Happy New Year

ON SATURDAY

TEMP Max 26 | Min 17 | Humidity 96% Rain likely. Misty morning Sensex 58,253 | Nifty 17,354 | Gold 48,131 | Silver 62,614 | Dollar 75.50 | Euro 84.80 | GBP 100.84

2022, HERE WE ARE

PAGE 2

A BEAUTIFUL MIND & BODY

438 urban health and wellness centres and 128 polyclinics to be set up

MAJOR ROADS ON THE HORIZON P4

MORE TRACK DOUBLING THIS YEAR P4

300 MW SUNNY SIDE UP, SAYS BESCOM P5

PAGE 9

WHAT B'LURU WANTS

We asked you what is the one change you want to see in Bengaluru in 2022. And you sent us your thoughts in 50 words

To ensure free movement of wildlife, satellite ring road will have first elevated highway over forest area replacing existing road

SUPER NATURAL

NHAI to build 6 km-long flyover in Bannerghatta forest

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KAUSHIK JN

"The construction time will be critical as construction equipment at the site can still cause a lot of harm to the sensitive zone
— Shiva Kumar, activist

Bengaluru has multiple flyovers constructed to free up traffic, especially on the busy roads underneath. Now, for the first time, the city will get a flyover so that the movement of wild animals is unhindered.

The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) which is constructing the satellite ring road has hit a dead end at Bannerghatta as the road connecting Bannerghatta to Kanakapura passes through the Bannerghatta forest. If a four-lane ring road is to be constructed, the existing two-lane road has to be widened.

With stiff opposition from the Greens, the NHAI has now decided to construct a 6 km-long flyover above the Bannerghatta wildlife corridor. Once the flyover is constructed, the existing road will be handed over to the forest department.

"This particular corridor has been a challenging one for us as we are facing resistance for the widening plan. As we have no other alternative, we are forced to construct the highway at the existing location itself. Hence, we have decided to construct a six-kilometre-long elevated highway. We hope once the elevated highway is constructed, it would ensure that wild animals in the eco-sensitive zone can have freedom of movement as there will be no vehicular movement on the forest floor," an NHAI official told Bangalore Mirror.

Currently, there is heavy traffic during peak hours crossing this forest zone as vehicles ply between Bannerghatta and Kanakapura road on a daily basis. Another reason for the NHAI to go for an elevated highway was it could not get required permission from the forest department for land acquisition and felling of trees.

"We cannot execute the satellite ring road without connecting this key stretch. So, we are going for an elevated highway," the official added.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

Elephant on the tracks

LRAD tech, infrasound and lights at right angles on tracks can stop trains killing wildlife

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A Bengaluru-based veterinarian with considerable experience in treating and rehabilitating wildlife has written to the Union minister of railways to consider existing technologies to check wildlife casualties on railway tracks, especially elephants run over by trains.

Colonel Dr Navaz Shariff, chief vet at the People for Animals, Bengaluru, said more than 50 elephants have been killed on railway tracks since 2010, including the recent incident where a seven-month-old calf was knocked dead by a train at Bhelaguri in Jorhat, Assam. Quite often, wild animals are killed on rail tracks traversing forests.

A possible solution is utilising existing technologies such as the Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD), Infrasound and installation of lights directed at right angles on tracks in the forest ranges, Dr Shariff wrote in his letter.

LRAD is a fool-proof technology that can save the lives of several animals. The technology is not just fairly simple but also works on minimal energy, perhaps solar-driven. Upon installation, when a train with RFID/ barcode/QR code crosses the sensors placed on the track, LRAD is triggered. LRAD then actuates and emits sound waves repulsive to wildlife approaching or on the tracks, keeping them away from the vicinity.

As the train leaves, the LRAD is turned off, ensuring safe animal crossing.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

2022, HERE WE ARE

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Dance for the soul

As the new year sets in, Bengaluru is getting ready to host the 10th edition of the Attakkalari India Biennial. Kicking off the celebrations for the milestone edition is the premiere of Sthavara-Jangama, a dance production choreographed by Attakkalari's artistic director Jayachandran Palazhy. Renowned Kannada poet, playwright and scholar HS Shivaprakash is consultant and advisor on literature & heritage for the production and award-winning musicians MD Pallavi and Bindhumalini don the title of music composers for it. Germany-based award-winning theatre director and digital artist Chris Zieglar brings in his expertise, creating digital imagery specifically for this production.

Where: Bangalore International Centre, Domlur; When: Jan 8, 6:30 pm; Tickets: Rs 300, Instamojo, Bookmyshow, PayTM Insider

02 Yoga your way

Yoga refreshes your mind and spirit, tones your body and keeps your internal organs and hormonal system in balance. All the more reason for people of all ages to do yoga. In fact, yoga asanas are one of the few physical exercises you can continue doing as you age. Sign up for this online session on yoga and exercises that are perfect for beginners and senior citizens too.

Where: Online; When: Jan 1 onwards, 10 am Tickets: Rs 499, insider.in

03 Shop till you drop

Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath is organising the Bangalore Arts and Craft Mela. The exhibition will display ethnic and contemporary arts and crafts, clothing, handloom sarees, jewellery, home décor, furniture, and handicraft products direct from the artisans and craft persons from across India. You can even get to directly interact with the artisans and know the story behind each product. Besides the bazaar, there will be fun activities like live music performances, workshops, and more.

Where: Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath, Seshadripuram; When: Till Jan 2

Raising a toast to a healthier new year

From increasing the number of health and wellness centres to focusing on vaccinating 100 % eligible population, Karnataka Government has several projects in the works

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The Health and Family Welfare Department (HFW) has decided to welcome the near year by strengthening and upgrading the Primary Health Centres (PHCs) in the state, and establishing treatment centres for hepatitis and focusing on the entire population of the state to be vaccinated for covid-19.

In the year 2022, the HFW will focus on Amrut Arogya Moola Soukarya Yojane, repairs and renovations of 750 PHCs (25 PHCs in each district) under the state budget at Rs 150 crore and efforts would be put to ensure enrolling residents for Ayushman Bharat Arogya Karnataka cards and extend annual health coverage for all.

Strengthening primary healthcare facilities by establishing 438 urban health and wellness centres and 128 polyclinics in urban areas along with existing 365 urban primary health centres across the state under 15th Finance Commission budget (Rs 122 crore) is a part of 2022's projects by the Health Department. Randeep D, Health Commissioner of HFW, pointed out prioritisation has been given on vaccinating the entire state in the coming year.

KAUSHIK JN

Healthcare workers will be trained and equipped to treat hepatitis and eliminate tuberculosis

> **"The focus shall be on full vaccination for all eligible population, and on improving coverage of child immunisation**
> – Randeep D, Commissioner, Health and Family Welfare Department

"As spike in covid cases is being seen even as we are entering the new year, the focus shall remain on full vaccination coverage for all eligible population in the state, including precautionary dose administration for healthcare workers, frontline workers and those above 60 years with comorbidities. The focus shall also remain on improving coverage of child immunisation." The state is also looking forward to eradicate tuberculosis. Ideally, the TB elimination plan is until 2023, but the state is gearing up to have many cases reduced as much as possible in 2022.

"As part of Kshaya Muktha Karnataka (elimination of TB by 2023), in coordination with Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Department, members of 5000 Gram Panchayats across state will be trained in stigma prevention, social and livelihood schemes, treatment monitoring, counselling," said Randeep. Strengthening of laboratories is also on the priority list. "Strengthening of laboratory diagnostics at all PHCs and Health Sub Centres (HSC) at a Rs 191-crore budget provided under 15th Finance Commission is one of the major projects," added Randeep.

District hospitals will be focusing on establishing treatment centres for hepatitis under National Viral Hepatitis Control Program. Special model treatment centres will be established at Kalaburagi, Belagavi, Mysuru, under National Viral Hepatitis Control Program for treatment of hepatitis. Strengthening of 108 emergency medical response services with advanced ambulances (Advanced and Basic Life Support Ambulances) as per WHO standards and strengthening of 104 Arogya Sahayavani Health Helpline with telemedicine, video-calling, chat box will also be given priority.

An application called 'Near Me' for locating the nearest health and wellness centres and home-based palliative care program by community health officers will be given priority.

New year, new education policies

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With covid threatening to disrupt the education system once again, education bodies and the State Education Department have come up with steps to ensure that education for all is not hampered in the new academic year. A senior educationist said, "For the last two years, classes have been online and offline. Though offline classes resumed from primary and even pre-primary in 2021, they may soon go back to online mode given Omicron."

Exam mania

With covid playing havoc on exams in 2021, the Education Department is in no mood to waive off the exams in 2022. A senior official from the department said: "During the II-year PU exam cancellation, we could not cancel the SSLC exams. So, we have now started to take periodic tests and exam marks into consideration. Primary and

Secondary Education Minister BC Nagesh has already hinted that the SSLC and II-year PU exams may be delayed this year. The Education Department would wait for some more time for the number of cases to come down so that offline exams are conducted instead of calling them off."

Compact universities

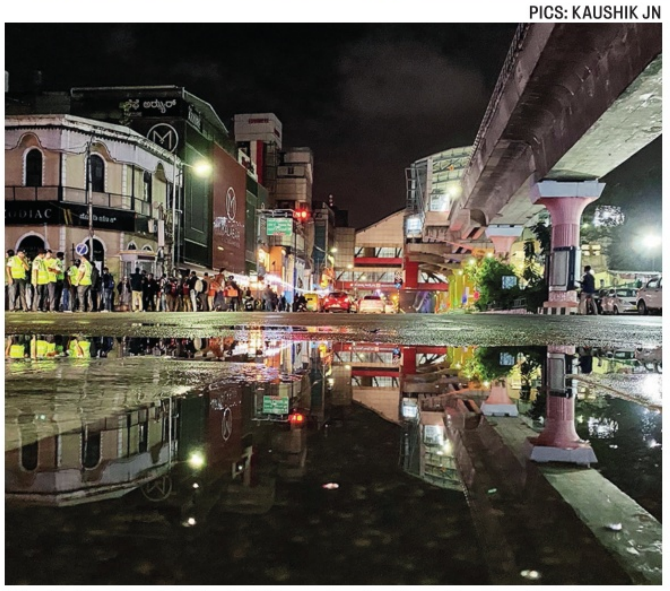
The State Government is likely to push for universities to be set up expeditiously in districts where there are no universities. According to Higher Education Minister Dr C N Ashwath Narayan, universities with vast campuses are becoming irrelevant nowadays. Modern technology has enabled the setting up of universities which are compact. Keeping this in mind, new universities which will be set up in the districts will be made to function effectively with the number of staff not exceeding 25 including the Vice-Chancellor. UVCE in Bengaluru will be developed in line with IIT Mumbai," he said. VTU in Belagavi which is spread across 120 acres should also develop as an institution similar to IIT.

National Education Policy

Government colleges in the state have begun implementing National Education Policy (NEP) guidelines, but confusion continues over its implementation. There are issues with open electives, languages classes, and syllabus. In most colleges, students have no option to select the subjects as per their interest. So, most of the students were reluctant to experiment and go with the flow by selecting earlier available combinations of subjects.

2022, HERE WE ARE

PICS: KAUSHIK JN



Along with the stringent night curfew in place, the New Year Eve plans for citizens were interrupted by a spell of rain on Friday. The Met department has predicted that cloudy sky and light rainfall will lash some areas for the next two days. It has also said that there are chances of mist formation during early morning hours.

RaiNYE Party

Scenes: Heavy drizzle and police patrols all around

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Additional restrictions and the rains seem to have worked out well for the police as footfall on MG Road came down to zero by 10 pm on December 31. Though there were regular vehicle movements in the city until 9 pm, many were seen struggling to get a cab and autorickshaws to return home.

Many who were partying inside pubs, walked out early to catch the metro while the police personnel started making announcements asking people to leave as the curfew had been imposed.

The police blocked the roads in and around Koramangala around 6:30 pm when motorists started to argue with the police as many were returning home from work. The vehicles started to pile up and many food delivery personnel were seen complaining that they were getting late for their deliveries. The barricades were soon lifted and were put up again at 10 pm when the actual curfew began. The vehicle movements were normal till 10 pm across the city.

Sanjana, a resident of Hebbal who had gone to Brigade Road with her friends, said that she had to walk a few metres on MG Road to get an autorickshaw.

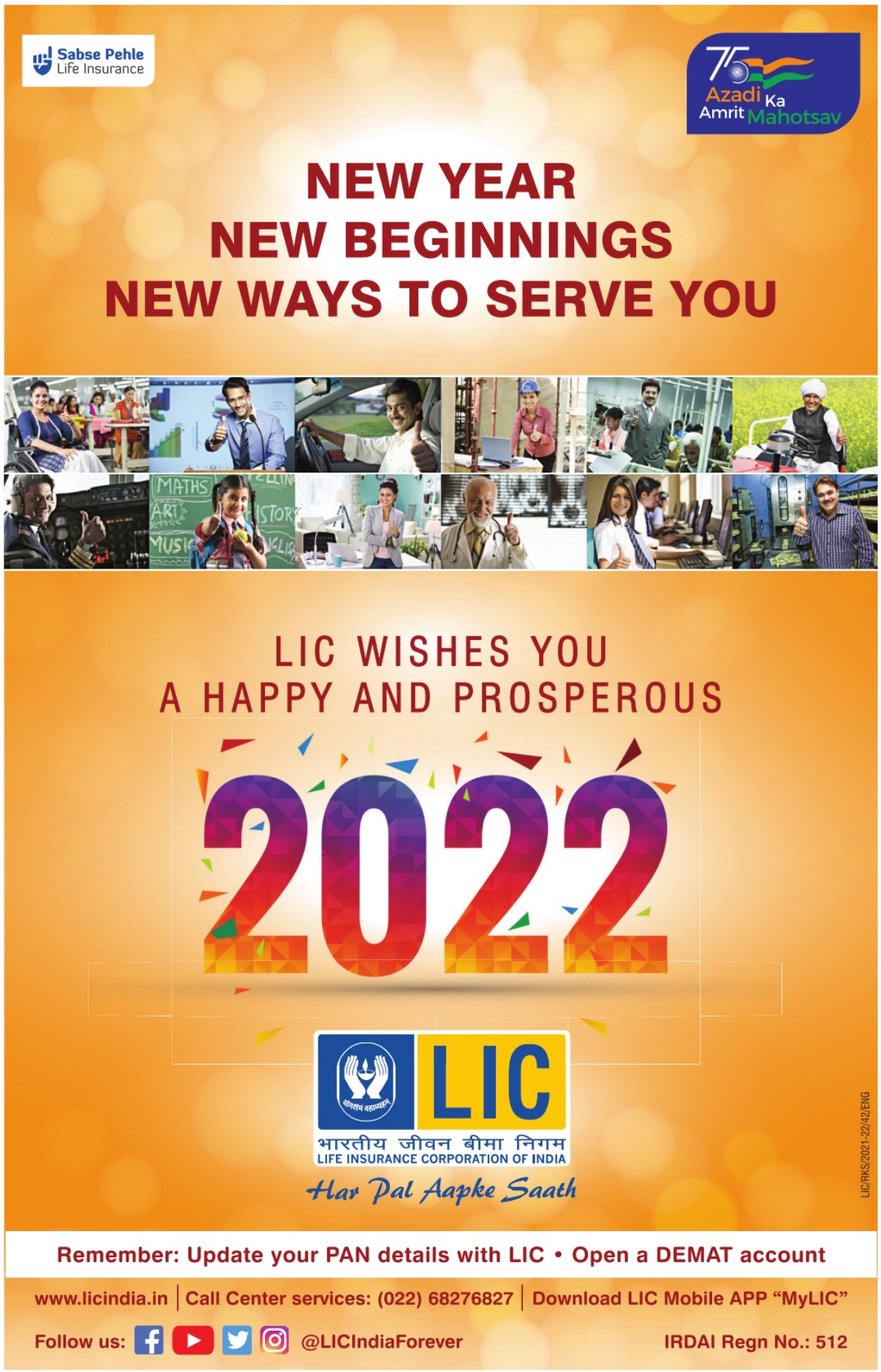
"The police had cleared all the autos in the auto stand on MG Road by 9:45 pm and when we stepped out after 10, it became very difficult for us to get one. I couldn't get cabs as well."

All the shops and restaurants started to shut by 9:30 pm and senior police officials along with the home minister visited MG Road for rounds.

The police had set up safety islands across the city to ensure women safety. This apart, they were checking people for drunk driving.

Jostling for space on the footpath

The crowd was more on the footpaths as people crowded the flower and fruit stalls. "We are making preparations for a puja tomorrow. Our family starts the year by offering puja to the temples here in order to bring prosperity," said Sunitha P, a resident.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Major roads on the horizon

Bengaluru-Mysuru highway widening project to be completed by Oct

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If the pace of roadwork continues as per the schedule, one can travel to Mysuru in 90 minutes. The much-delayed widening of the Bengaluru-Mysuru highway is likely to be completed by October this year. Currently, work is being executed in two packages — Bengaluru-Nidaghatta (56.2 km) and Nidaghatta-Mysore stretch (61.1 km).

Work resumed last year after it was halted during covid waves. A number of flyovers are coming up between Kengeri and Kumbalgod that are in the finishing phase. One of the highlights of the roadwork is that the earlier road had many curves that are now being straightened by acquiring land. A portion of bypass work at Bidadi and Ramanagara-Channapatna is over. However, as the road extends to a number of rivers and streams, the construction of long bridges there are in progress. Many travellers are looking forward to the completion of service roads as this will ensure that the local traffic doesn't get merged to the main highway.

Though the work was to be completed much earlier, many issues have been plaguing the progress. Initially, the roadworks was hit by land acquisition issues. Though the foundation laying ceremony was laid, it took many more months for the actual work to begin. The existing four-laned highway will be widened to six-lane highway with two-lane service roads on either side. The NHAI says that it will be nearly an access-controlled road and the users will get a feeling of driving in an expressway. As the Bengaluru-Mysuru Road passes through a lot of towns, it has been decided to construct a number of bypasses. The Bengaluru-Mysuru section will have 51.75-km of greenfield roads as bypasses — Bidadi (6.9 km), Ramanagara-Channapatna (22.35 km), Maddur (4.5 km, Mandya (10 km) and Srirangapatna (8 km).

Service lane along the Outer Ring Road on Mysore Road being constructed

New bylane with amenities will be made at Ramanagara bypass; New toll booths will come up at Kumbalgodu and Srirangapatna; 62 junctions have been identified

A new bylane with amenities will be created at Ramanagara bypass. New toll booths will come up at Kumbalgodu and Srirangapatna. The authorities have also identified 62 junctions along the highway, which will see 49 underpasses and 13 flyovers so that there are no crossings at grade junctions. Nine major bridges across rivers and streams, 44 small bridges, four railway overbridges and 69 bus stands will also be constructed. The project cost is estimated to be Rs 7,400 crore. Once completed, it is expected to cover the distance between two cities in 90 minutes.

4-laned Magadi Road

The Bengaluru-Magadi Road is being widened to four-lane and the work is likely to be completed this year. The 50-km road that connects Bengaluru to Magadi town has seen a drastic increase in traffic in recent times. The BBMP is currently in the process of widening the road from Outer Ring road till Gollarahatti. The project from Gollarahatti to Magadi is being taken up at a cost of Rs 1,036 crore. Once this road is developed, it will be used as an alternative road to reach Kunigal-Mangaluru Road.

Peripheral Ring Road

There has been talks that the tenders for the Peripheral Ring Road project may be called this year. As part of the project, a new stretch from Tumkur Road to Hosur Road via airport road will come up. This is much needed to bypass the heavy traffic. Confusion prevails around whether the new road will be constructed on or below the flyover. BDA officials say that as of now, the road will be on ground level with necessary flyovers at every junction. As the project and land acquisition cost is set to be more than Rs 17,000 crore, state government may partly fund the project while BDA may go for JICA funding.

Kanakapura Road work

After dilly-dallying, the Kanakapura Road widening is going at a snail's pace. The work was plagued from the beginning. The head of the concessionaire had passed away and then family disputes delayed the project. With the incomplete project causing a lot of accidents, there was pressure to resume work. As per the project details, the road from NICE junction to Kanakapura will be four-lane and Kankapura to Tamil Nadu border (near Chamarajanagar) stretch will be an improved two-lane road.

As all the NH roads connecting the city have been or will be four-laned, Kanakapura was the last straw which will be taken up now. The road can also serve as an alternative road to Mysuru. Many prefer to take the Kanakapura road as the existing road via Channapatna and Mandya has high volumes of traffic.

ADVERTORIAL

The prodigy with 2 world records

A little older than five years, Aditi Tanya Iyengar has already created two world records. This amazingly talented girl started to read and write English fluently at the age of two. As she reached three, Aditi had learnt to play the keyboard and xylophone all by herself.

The first world record she created was for reciting the 21-paragraph-long Aigiri Nandini (Durga Stotram), blind-folded in a record time of 9 minutes 35 seconds.

She created her second world record by pronouncing and spelling the longest word in the English Dictionary, the 45-letter word pneumonoultramicroscopicsilicovolcanoconiosis which she achieved in a record time of 16 seconds.

While most of the kids of her age would spend time watching cartoons or playing games on the mobile, she loves to spend her time reading the encyclopedia and learning new musical instruments.

She owns a Youtube channel where she uploads her videos.

More track doubling this year

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One of the many reasons behind the government not introducing enough trains is to avoid rail traffic as many of the key routes are still single tracked. However, the outlook looks positive this year, says railway officials.

The Hindupur-Penukonda (38 km) doubling project is planned to be completed by the end of January. The Gadag-Hombal (16 km) line -- part of Gadag-Hotgi doubling project -- is planned to be completed by January too. Another project planned to be completed by January is the Nittur-Banasandra (22 km) line, which is part of Tumkur-Arsikere doubling project. The 50-km Haveri-Saunshi project, part of Hubballi-Bengaluru doubling project, is planned to be completed by February. The Londa-Suldhal (78 km) line is planned to be completed by March. The projects will give a huge boost to the connectivity across Karnataka.

Aneesh Hegde, CPRO, South Western Railways told Mirror, "During April-December 2021, 231 route km of railway line were electrified in SWR. SWR tops in this duration in carrying out electrification among all the railway zones all over the country. Some of the major sections electrified between January and December 2021 were Yeshwanthpur-Tumakuru (64 km) and Baiyappanahalli-Banaswadi (4 km)."

Till December 2021, SWR has loaded 31 MT of freight. "This was 20 per cent more than the freight loaded by SWR in the corresponding duration of 2021. The SWR also has recorded the highest ever loading of parcels.

During April-December 2021, 231 route km of railway line were electrified in SWR

We have carried 251.77 ton of cargo and earned a revenue of Rs 88.92 crore. This corresponds to 140 per cent growth in parcel transportation over the same period in 2020. This includes Kisan special trains and special parcel cargo express trains. These initiatives have benefited farmers, retail traders and manufacturers of industrial and other components in Bengaluru and surrounding areas. They are able to transfer their produce to various parts of the country and reach newer markets," Hegde said.

Hegde said that the SWR had transported 171 rakes of automobiles from Bengaluru Div to various parts of the country from April – December 2021, which is the highest ever. Toyota, Kia, TVS are some of the key customers of SWR. Railways has emerged as a reliable transporter of choice. Toyota has shifted from road based transport to rail based transport. The doubling between Devarapalle-Hindupur (10.72 km) was commissioned on 15.12.2021 (Bengaluru Division). All over SWR from April-December 2021, 61km Doubling project has been commissioned, including Madgaon-Sanvordem (15 km) and Hombal-Hole Alur (36 km).

2022, HERE WE ARE

300 MW sunny side up, says Bescom

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The Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited (BESCOM) has a vision to complete the 300 MW target set by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE). The electricity board will empanel agencies for installation of solar rooftop plants and cost discovery (Cost/kW) will also be done through the tendering procedure.

This was initiated by MNRE under the solar rooftop Phase Two scheme, as a part of Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs), India has committed to increase the share of installed capacity of electric power from non-fossil-fuel sources to 40 per cent by 2030. Solar energy is one of the main sources to accomplish the target.

The Government of India set the target of achieving 100 GW of solar power capacity in the country by the year 2022, of which 40 GW to be achieved from rooftop solar (RTS). The MNRE launched Phase-II grid connected solar rooftop programme for achieving cumulative capacity of 40GW from Rooftop Solar Projects by the year 2022 in India. Out of the target, 4,000 MW (4 GW) is for grid connected rooftop solar projects in the residential sector with central financial assistance (CFA).

For its implementation, the MNRE has allocated state-wise targets and BESCOM has been allocated a capacity of 300 MW. The programme provides CFA for setting up rooftop solar for Individual Residential consumers and Group Housing Societies or Residential Welfare Associations.

BESCOM to initiate Janasnehi Vidyut Sevegalu to simplify the process of availing power supply

Rajendra Cholan said, "BESCOM proposes to implement the scheme in its jurisdiction as Soura Gruha Yojane. In the year 2020-2021, over 705 solar roof top photovoltaic (SRTPV) commissioned installations with a capacity of 16.56 MWp. Between 2021-2022, over 741 SRTPV were installed at 23.65 MWp. The expected capacity in the year is 25MWP (for non-subsidy) and the aim is for implementation of 300 MW of grid connected solar rooftop plants in residential sectors under MNRE Phase-II Scheme."

BESCOM plans to initiate Janasnehi Vidyut Sevegalu to simplify the procedure of availing power supply.

BESCOM plans to incorporate the Feeder Level Solarization under Component-C of the PM-KUSUM scheme. MNRE envisaged sustainable solution for reliable power to the IP sets using Feeder Level Solarisation. The scheme was launched on March 8, 2019 and guidelines were issued last year. MNRE has allocated 1,75,000 IP sets to BESCOM, which requires 650MW of solar capacity. These power plants will generate 1082MUs of energy annually to cater power supply to these IP sets. "At present, it is difficult to arrange seven hours power supply to IP sets during daytime in many substations, due to technical constraints. With the scheme, BESCOM can arrange daytime power supply. Hence, farmers not only will get daytime reliable power supply for irrigation, the agriculture productivity will also increase."

The power purchase cost from these solar power plants is cheaper, thereby increasing the subsidy burden on the government. "Since, power is generated near to the load, transmission losses will also get reduced. These solar power plants will be connected to the BESCOM grid by the end of June-2023," added Cholan.

Elementary, dear B'lurean

Cops to be trained in enhanced investigation skills

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Bangalore City Police personnel have been working throughout the pandemic to reduce criminal activities

Covid has put people in hardships and to tackle more crimes that can take place due to this, the city police officials are being trained at the station level, said city police commissioner Kamal Pant.

"All the support systems to the tech industry have been affected due to covid. The trouble faced by the tech industry and as a result of the financial crisis, new offenders would come up, who would start chain snatching, mobile snatching and other petty thefts to make a living. Not only these offenses, domestic crimes are also increasing with women being harassed by their husbands and other family feuds due to financial crises and pandemic stress. With the expected third wave, our staff are being prepared both mentally and physically to tackle such cases at the station levels. Identifying new offenders is a difficult task and we are improving their investigation skills to crack down on these offenders," Pant said.

Critical care response units

The city police commissioner said, "We need to take the community into confidence to gain their trust. We need to increase the interaction with them, respond to their complaints immediately, and need to be fair to gain their trust. Once we provide them alertness, promptness, fearlessness and accessibility, they will feel safe to contact police and talk about the issue. We have also set up critical care response units (CCRU) in eight hospitals in the city where women and children, who are victims of crimes, can get legal and medical assistance."

Sharper eyes

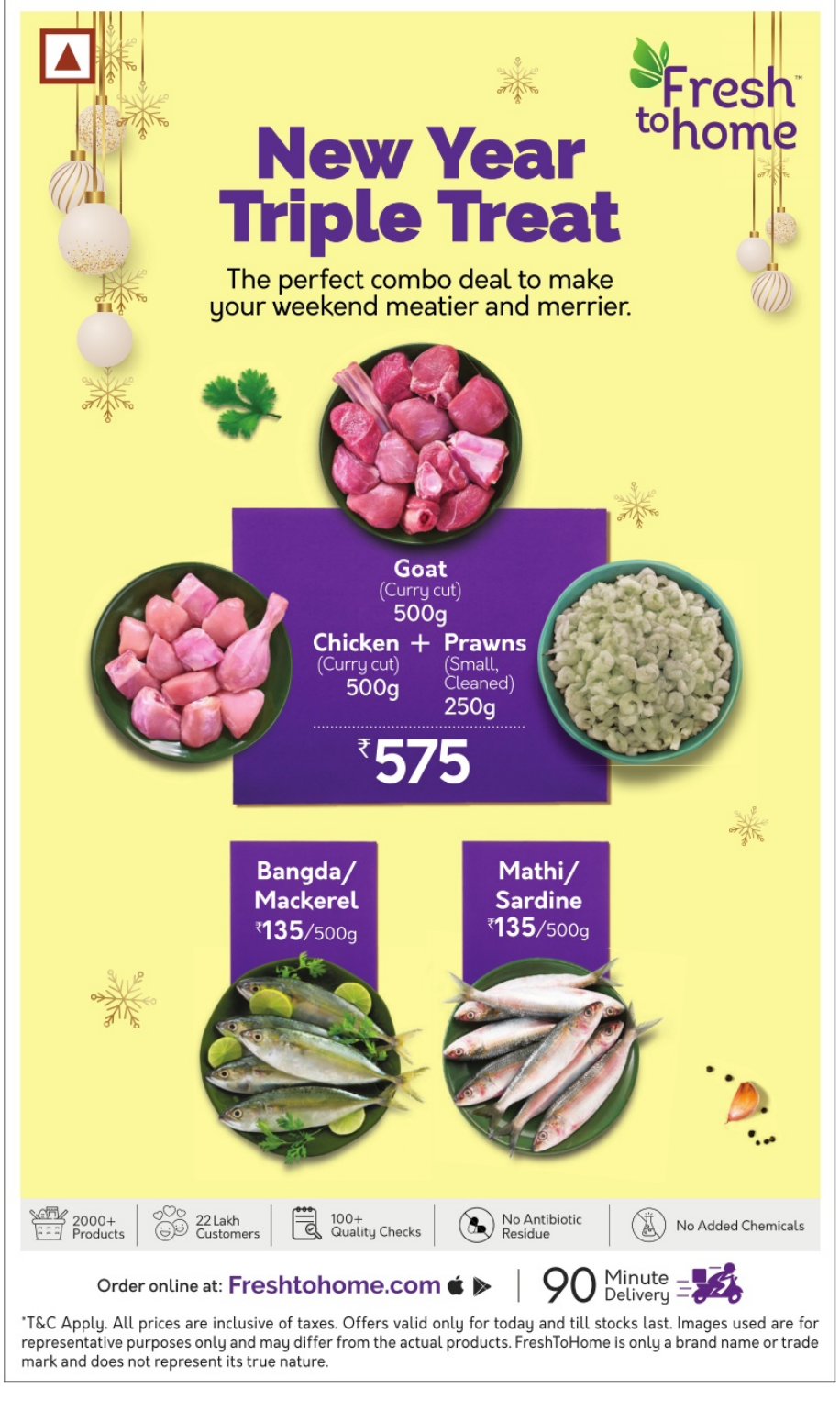
This year, the cameras will be sharper to find out the traffic offenses as the city police have geared up to install automatic number plate detective (ANPD) cameras across the roads. The cameras are independent devices, which will capture the number plates of vehicles committing traffic offenses. The cameras will capture the data of the vehicles to analyse the speed they are cruising at on the stretch. Police said that they have already installed 30 cameras in elevated corridors as a pilot project and more will be installed in other traffic junctions in the coming year.

Traffic congestion

Civic agencies should work effectively to keep the arterial roads in good condition for smooth and fast flow of traffic. "Once the IT companies resume back to normal, the traffic movement would increase and lead to traffic congestion. If traffic on arterial roads is slow, the inner roads will be affected and we need to make sure that these roads are in the best condition. We have other important projects like High Density Corridor and Signal free corridor coming next year, which are aimed to increase the traffic flow in the city," the cop said.

More bodycams

There are many allegations against the traffic police demanding bribes from the motorists and there is assault against the cops, the police officer said. "We want to provide a neutral watchman, which would provide 100 per cent transparency by installing body cameras on every traffic police."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Here is Why 2022 Will Be The Year Of The Home Buyer

Shehzin Shaikh talks to industry experts to find out that outlook for real estate sector is bright in the new year

As we enter 2022, the industry expects to witness further upward momentum and benefit the home buyers.

Residential real estate sector

The residential estate sector recorded a recovery despite the pandemic exigencies in 2021. The disruption caused by the pandemic is slowly settling and the real estate market is expected to gain back its rhythm in the next two to three quarters, albeit, the threats of the new variant is adequately contained with minimum disruption in the early part of the New Year. The residential segment is thus expected to witness around five per cent capital value growth in 2022.

- Shishir Baijal, chairman and managing director, Knight Frank India

The residential real estate market is witnessing green shoots of recovery and is expected to gain further momentum in 2022. The Reserve Bank of India's (RBIs) policy stands with soft interest rates, along with the incentives offered by the developers has given a further boost to the residential market. Sales of more than 77,000 residential units were recorded in the first three quarters of 2021 (January to September 2021), an increase of 47 per cent compared to the same period last year. Similarly, new launches of around 93,000 units were recorded, indicating an increase of 38 per cent compared to the same period last year. Improving market sentiments on the back of a recovery in the economy have instilled confidence amongst developers as they strategically launch projects across cities to tap into the demand recovery underway. In 2022, with strong end-user demand and conducive market conditions, the average sales volume is expected to reach the average quarterly sale of 35,926 units. The increased demand momentum, limited inventory in select segments, and rising input costs are expected to result in a slight price hike in select residential micro-markets.

- Ritesh Mehta, senior director and head (West and North) residential services and developer initiatives, JLL India

Going forward, the key trends that are likely to shape the residential sector in 2022 are:

Grade A developers will continue to dominate the residential market and gain more market share in 2022;

Further, if the present momentum continues in the coming year and there are no disruptions, housing sales and residential launches in 2022 will either be only a little less than the pre-Covid-19 levels (the peak year of 2019) or even come back to the pre-pandemic levels of 2019. As per our research, 2019 attained a new peak in residential activity after the last peak (of 2014) with more than 2.61 lakh units sold and nearly 2.37 lakh units launched in the year; Input cost pressure and supply chain issues could lead to an upward revision of prices between 5-8%; The market will continue to be driven by the end-users and peripheral areas of the cities will continue to remain active in terms of residential activity – both supply and demand. ***- Anuj Puri, chairman, Anarock Group***

Commercial real estate sector

While it is early to predict what the implications of the new variant will be, 2022 will likely be similar to 2021, for the real estate sector. The commercial real estate sector may sail through the possible third wave with the demand for managed office spaces remaining strong in 2022. As corporates continue optimising real estate capital and operating costs, they will either re-negotiate in their existing spaces or relocate to comparable alternatives. Based on our surveys and employee feedback, many organisations have adopted flexible work models. Most employees have opted for a three-day workweek.

- Naveen Nandwani, MD, commercial advisory & transactions, Savills India

— Times Property

A new year wish for us all

"I wish all the businesses prosper in 2022 and we should all be free from the Covid pandemic. For the last four to five years, we have been seeing significant growth for the housing sector. I hope there will be a good demand for apartments in 2022 as well. Both the State and Central Governments are providing good support to the realty sector. If we get more help, this will aid the growth of the country as well. In this New Year, I wish the dreams of the people should come true so that they can own a house. My suggestion is that instead of paying a rent of Rs 18,000 to Rs 25,000, people should invest in apartments and utilise the rent amount to pay EMI so they can own their dream house.

SP Dayanand
Executive Director
DS-MAX Properties Pvt. Ltd

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2022, HERE WE ARE

Micro-containment in Mahadevapura: 26 cases in apartment complex

Iffath.Fathima
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KAUSHIK JN

The city railway station getting sanitised

Bengaluru again hit a high with the covid tally on Friday, months after reporting a low number of cases. With the high number of cases reported in the city, cluster cases too were on a high. A recent cluster case was reported at the Adarsh Palm Retreat apartment complex at Mahadevpura which has over 26 cases.

The apartment complex is spread over 126 acres with 800 villas, which are different blocks and there is much space between each block.

A health official in Mahadevpura zone revealed that one block has over 40 houses and several positive cases are being formed in different blocks, turning into micro containment zones. So far, 26 cases have been reported with four clusters, over the past two weeks. A majority of the people have had international travel history and have tested positive for the virus. The tests for primary and secondary contacts of these cluster patients are ongoing.

A health official from Mahadevpura zone said, "We had reported two omicron cases earlier with international travel history, tested positive for the variant. They were isolated in hospital, treated and have even recovered. So far immediate measures have been taken to control the spread and micro containment zones."

A fews days ago, at an engineering College on Mysuru Road, according to the students, 23 had developed Covid-19 infection, however the colleges officials stated that only five cases were positive. In another cluster at an apartment complex in Rajajinagar, 23 cases of covid 19 had emerged.

The city's containment zones have increasing, over 108 micro containment zones have been detected. Thirty-two of the containment zones are from Bommanhalli, followed by 24 in Mahadevpura, 17 from South zone, 12 from East zone, Yelhanka has 11 micro containment zones, while west, Dasarahalli and RR Nagar have eight, three and one containment zones each.

Positivity rate

The city's positivity rate has shot up in the past week, reaching to 0.88%. The city's positivity rate during November first week was 0.39%, it increased to 0.47% in December first week, while by the end of December the positivity rate reached to 0.88%. Positive cases in Bengaluru from December 24-30 are 2,462, while between December 17-23 the tally as low at 1,418 positive cases and even lower in December 10-16 with 1,229 cases.

WILD TARGET: Making way for wildlife in B'luru

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Though the greens have welcomed the move, they are urging the NHAI to exercise caution.

"It is a welcome move that a flyover is being constructed to avoid the Bannerghatta zone. This will be helpful as once the flyover comes it will end the current movement of vehicles on the existing road passing through the corridor," Narayan Kumar, a green activist said.

According to Shiva Kumar, another activist, the construction time will be critical as construction equipment at the site can still cause a lot of harm to the sensitive zone.

"We feel the construction of highways or elevated highways is usually delayed and this delay can cause a lot of problems. So, if such a plan is executed, then the officials should ensure that all the necessary precautions are taken and the entire project is completed in a time bound manner," he added.

There has been demand for such underpasses in wildlife corridors — elevated stretches in dense forest areas, so that the wild animals have freedom of movement. There was a similar proposal in Bandipur as well. However, such projects come at a huge cost and it would be economically unviable to construct a long stretch of highway in a forest. The Greens have been urging the government not to construct any highways or permit new highways in forest areas and ensure that the animals have right of way in our forests.

The NHAI is executing the ring road under the Bharatmala project. The ring road will link Dobbspet (Tumakuru Road), Doddaballapur (Hindupur Road), Devanahalli (Hyderabad Road), Hosakote (Kolar Road), Hosur (Chennai Road), Anekal (Thali Road), Kanakapura (Kollegal Road), Ramanagara (Mysuru Road) and Magadi (Kunigal Road). The total length of this ring road is about 281 km (as against 116 km identified for peripheral ring road and 60 km of the existing outer ring road) in Karnataka and 45 km in Tamil Nadu.

How to save elephants from moving trains

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Similarly, elephants react to infrasound. This is one of the reasons they're so quick to react when a natural disaster is looming, such as an earthquake. Installation of infrasound can keep elephants away from railway tracks.

Furthermore, the installation of lights directed at right angles from the tracks can also be done to ensure elephants do not approach the tracks at night.

According to Dr Shariff, the requisites for installing this technology is a sensor mechanism to detect trains: "Sensors could be placed in between railway tracks around every 3 to 4 km based on the sound propagation, an actuator for the LRAD, and LRAD itself. As the train approaches a forest zone, the sensor sends a message to the actuator so that LRAD could emit sound waves at prefixed decibel range to ward off wild animals from train tracks."

RAJMOHAN SUDHAKAR

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A brand new year

"In the midst of hate, I found there was, within me, an invincible love. In the midst of tears, I found there was, within me, an invincible smile. In the midst of chaos, I found there was, within me, an invincible calm. I realized, through it all, that in the midst of winter, I found there was, within me, an invincible summer. And that makes me happy. For it says that no matter how hard the world pushes against me, within me, there's something stronger – something better, pushing right back." **— Albert Camus**

A friend sent me the screenshot of the above passage. It felt timely. As we enter a brand new year, what the great philosopher said reverberates through and beyond our city. It is so refreshing to the soul — if souls indeed harbour anything as a conscience.

Bengaluru is one of the youngest cosmopolitan urban settlements in India and it shall continue to grow as an inclusive urban conglomeration in 2022, thwarting vile attempts to homogenise and make the citizens walk the line: the recent instance of the MP withdrawing what was a controversial statement bordering the absurd notwithstanding. I hope not to hear such utterances from responsible representatives this year.

On this brand new day, I do recall what the Mahatma said in earnest: "When I despair, I remember that all through history the ways of truth and love have always won. There have been tyrants, and murderers, and for a time they can seem invincible, but in the end they always fall. Think of it – always."

Is fear stopping us from reacting to the atrocities unleashed across the country against its own citizens or are we comfortably numb to the vagaries of absolute power? The affluent are it would seem. I hope this will change this year.

Whatever the case, we stand to lose. In times of multiple crises, which we are facing at the moment, the best of us and worst of us clash. Ordinary citizens of a metropolis such as Bengaluru, the majority of them, have no idea about what the future holds and to be honest it is confusing as it is uncertain for them. I hope their lives get better this year.

This brand new day is the day to reassure what is indeed absolute and certain: that the social fabric of this great nation is sacrosanct and not to be tampered with. Sly attempts at that should be repeatedly called out.

Curiously enough, a sadhu who attended the so-called 'dharam sansad' walked out on the others gathered at the event, publicly boycotting the group as one of the speakers 'abused the Mahatma', that too strangely enough, to the applause of the attendees.

Most ordinary folk would stay away and rather not indulge, when politics becomes just about deepening and widening social fault lines. The fact is they just want to live another day as making ends meet itself is an immense struggle, let alone protest. I hope their lives will change this year.

That it is a travesty the average city-dweller is deprived of basic infrastructure even after paying taxes apart, the primary focus and effort are to pit citizens against one another for short-time political gain. I hope this will change this year.

It is sheer chance that the ruling dispensation at the Centre rode the advent of unregulated social media surge in India to its benefit — any political outfit could have. There is nothing unique about it than the timing, and the divisive agenda itself, so diabolical, putting the führer to shame. I hope this will change this year.

This has to be seen in the context of delegitimising the media — something malignant, the effects of which are evident today, with far reaching consequences as it would soon render democracy non-existent. Having no access to facts in the age of information is rather amusing — not allowing media inside the parliament, issuing diktats to officials to not speak to the media, are violations of the citizen's fundamental right to hold the elected representative accountable. I hope this will change this year.

It is no surprise it took a year for the farmers to get their voices heard in the pandemonium which the public discourse has become of late. A rouge social media replacing the credible traditional media that has immensely helped in nation building is appalling. I hope this too shall change this year.

India of the day is better described in the following Tao verse of Lao Tzu: "It is the way of heaven to diminish superabundance, and to supplement deficiency. It is not so with the way of man. He takes away from those who have not enough to add to his own superabundance."

One can only hope the Tao would be proven otherwise in 2022, which is highly unpredictable as Tao itself.

2022, HERE WE ARE

What Bengaluru wants

We asked you to tell us what is the one change you want to see in Bengaluru in 2022. And you told us your thoughts in 50 words

KAUSHIK JN

I want to see more cyclists on our Bengaluru streets! For that we need good roads and infrastructure. As a member of the active mobility council I have accepted our city as it is but would want to see a city which is inclusive of cycles as traffic n cyclists as messengers for a cleaner greener Bengaluru .

— Suma Arun, Value Educator

I seek to see in 2022 a city more poetic and less chaotic. It is a hope indeed but a hope for a cleaner, greener, neighborhood, where I fear less to take a stroll in the late evening. A city where I could breathe purer air and enjoy my long drives without the worry of a pothole. A hope to see most of the streets lit bright and a lesser crime rate.

— Arvind Dwarakanath, Tech Program Manager

Bengaluru roads are horrible and it looks like it only got worse in 2021. I hope that at least in 2022, we will have better roads which will reduce accidents and also make driving a safe and pleasurable experience.

—Sreeja P, Teacher

Bengaluru being one of the four leading technology hubs of the world and base to many Fortune 500 companies requires world-class infrastructure to make it a truly global city. The focus in 2022 should be on enabling faster commute, providing a cleaner and greener city, and connecting citizens to the city by providing access to services and to experience its culture and heritage.

— Jagdish Bhandary, Services Manager

The one big change that I want to see in Bengaluru is: our pristine garden city to be restored & rejuvenated to its original glory of having beautiful trees and flowers coupled with much required good roads. This would encourage cycling, reduce pollution, improve foreign trade, improve our environment and inturn infuse greater hope and a better future for our generation next.

— Shweta Krishnappa Advocate, High Court of Karnataka

Changes that I would love to see in Bengaluru are pothole free roads so that citizens could ride safely and focus on their health. Segregating the wet and dry waste. Cleaning bengaluru as a social responsibility.

— Bhagyashree Sawant, Psychologist

In 2022, I would like to see better and wider roads, better waste management, less garbage and dirt littering our streets and more greenery, plants and trees. Last but not least, peace, tolerance, and understanding, among the citizens of Bengaluru.

—Bernard Rohan, Technical writer and Musician

I want to see the Active Mobility Bill and the other BMTA bills passed and Bengaluru get a proper transport policy and system in place.

— Venkata KS Pakala

Bengaluru should be the first to have the world's tallest building which can attract crores of tourists. Bengaluru should be familiar to each and everyone on this planet. Tourism should be given utmost priority with well maintained fantastic foads.

— Sreerangaraju, Officer, SBI

I am blessed and lucky to be born in the garden city of india. Bengaluru is famous for its diversity, hospitality and kindness. The big change I would recommend is to have better roads and decrease in traffic.

— Shyamala

I would like to see a Benglauru that is actually "Smart", where thought and planning is in place and roads are paved, and stay that way- instead of being asphalted one day and dug up the next. I want to be able to travel without every bone being shaken. I hope someone will read this and actually do something about it. This would be a big change indeed.

— Pari Berlin

The one thing that I would certainly like to see in 2022 is the Government and Courts to enforce the right rigid changes and stringent laws to ensure that BBMP is made totally accountable for their performance (as in the private sector). This one change can certainly herald a new dawn in Bengaluru.

— Anil Nayak

The big change I want to see in Bengaluru in 2022 is to see the CBD area of 5 km radius from MG Road only opened for bicycles. It will help cut pollution and traffic and sort parking issues. Also cycles should be used across the city

— Vinay chopra

I want to see Bengaluru greener and more peaceful. Every area, every ward, every corner of Bengaluruis occupied with beautiful, dust free, green parks and all lakes renovated where elderly people and kids get to spend a quality time. So expecting a wonderful Bengaluru.

— Radhika Srikanth, Digital Marketer

Harassment by public servants (Police) must stop. This inclueds illegal fining, ill treatment, threatening. Be kind and smile to us the general public.

— Benjamin Chacko, Corporate sector

MORE RESPONSES TOMORROW »

5,644 peddlers arrested, narcotics worth ₹59 cr seized in 2021

Pragna L Krupa
pragna.krupa@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @Pragna_MIRROR

The city police who have been severing the narcotics chain in the city, have arrested 5,644 drug peddlers this year alone with seizure of Rs. 59 crore worth drugs which has been the highest in the city so far.

The city cops said they have been going tough on drug peddling and have been cracking down cases every day across the city by getting right to the roots of the issue.

City police commissioner Kamal Pant told Bangalore Mirror that this year they have cracked the highest number of narcotic cases and have been successful in arresting several drug peddlers including foreigners. "We had been focusing on getting rid of drug menace in the city and all the DCPs and the joint commissioner (crime) have been cracking down on narcotics every day across the city. We are closely working with the central agencies to track inter state peddlers. We have focused more on synthetic drugs, peddlers and consumers. In the coming year, we would be focusing more on schools and colleges to educate children on drug abuse. We'll have more awareness campaigns in the city on drugs," he said.

According to the city crime records bureau, in 2019, 768 cases were booked in which 1,260 were arrested which increased to 2,766 cases with 3,673 arrests in 2020 and 4,475 cases with 5,644 arrests in 2021 (till Dec 26).

Of 4,475 cases in 2021, 4,275 cases were on Ganja (Marijuana) which is the highest followed by 103 cases of MDMA & MDS powder & capsules, 39 cases of synthetic drugs and other narcotic substances Ecstasy, Hashish, Hashish oil, Opium, Brown Sugar and LSD. A total of 3,641.756 kgs of drugs worth Rs. 592,775,690 were seized this year against 3,912.826 kg drugs worth Rs. 213,856,550 in 2020 and 1053.188 kg drugs worth Rs. 34,686,700 in 2019.

A senior officer said that the police have been focusing on narcotic substances and abuse, especially synthetic drugs, since last year and have intensified the drive.

"We have been identifying the consumers first and through them, we are tracing the drug peddlers. In the coming year, we want to focus more on the youngsters who are more vulnerable to drugs and spread awareness on drug abuse. We are also counselling first time users at station level and are guiding the addicts to the deaddiction and rehabilitation center," he said.

In 2021, 173 foreigners were arrested and 137 cases were booked against them of which 105 accused were Nigeria nationals. In 2019, 38 foreign national were arrested and 33 cases were booked and in 2020, 84 foreigners were arrested with 66 cases booked against them.

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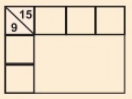
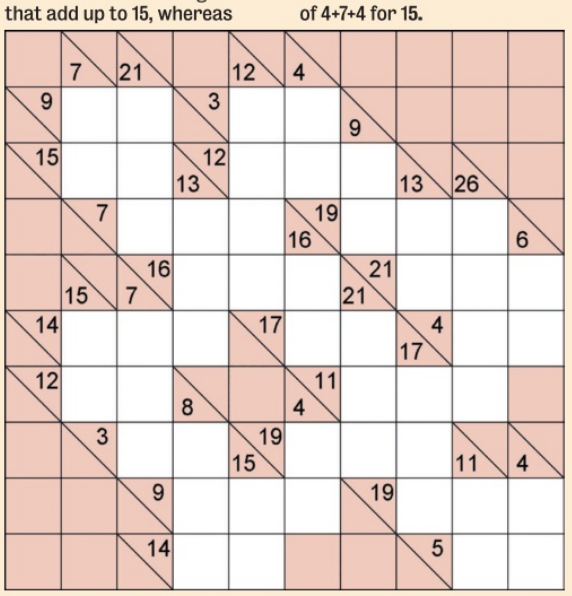
Kakuro

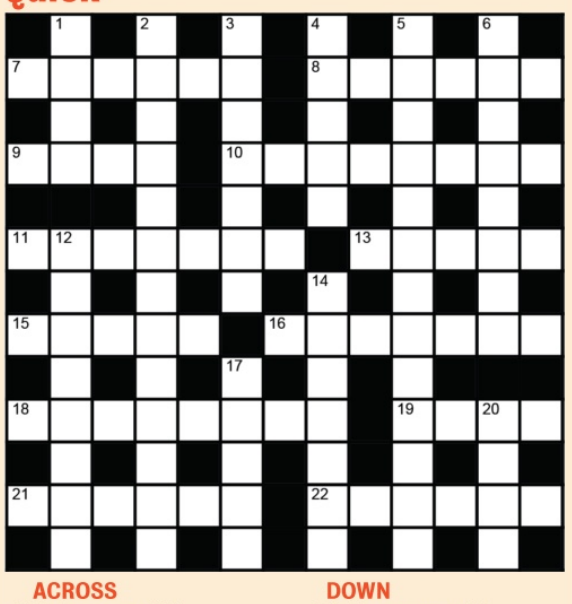
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Well renowned (6)
8 Make a journey (6)
9 Objectives (4)
10 Scraping off, injuring by rubbing (8)
11 Green vegetable (7)
13 Frequently (5)
15 In a quiet voice; softly (5)
16 Set free (7)
18 Meets formally (8)
19 Horse colour (4)
21 Traps or baits (6)
22 Pertaining to teeth (6)

DOWN

1 Indian garment (4)
2 D. H. Lawrence's novel (4,3,6)
3 Sideways or squinting, as in look ____? (7)
4 Tale (5)
5 Rather deaf (4,2,7)
6 Avidity or eagerness (8)
12 Intellectually deep and penetrating (8)
14 Coast (7)
17 Grind (5)
20 Hebrew month (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: V EQUALS S

EDWQCFY EDW VCIIHVV: WPVH HYWFB, KDWS NYWZ, VMWPSH DPF.

Linemaro

Do you mind if I stare at you up close instead of from across the room?

Mindchow

It's not enough to say the right thing at the right place; leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment

Joke of the day

Two Eskimos sitting in a kayak were chilly, so they lit a fire. The kayak sank, proving that you can't have your kayak and heat it too

Loop

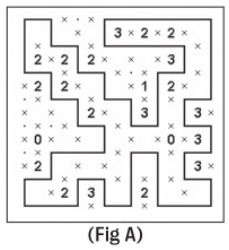
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

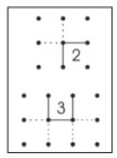
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

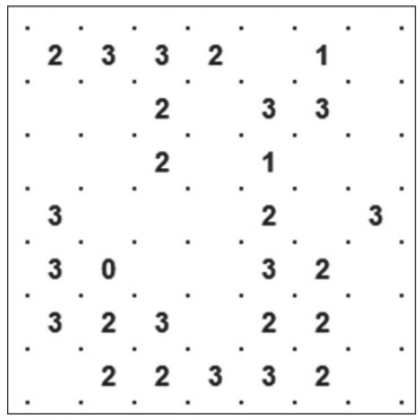
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



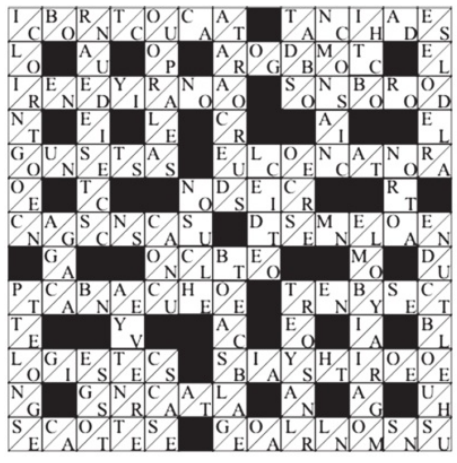
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



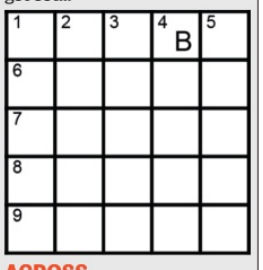
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

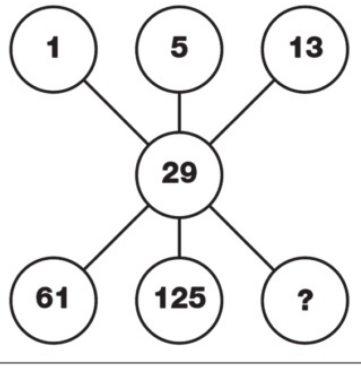
1 Be erg; 6 Lenin;
7 Oasis; 8 Hunts;
9 Is gee

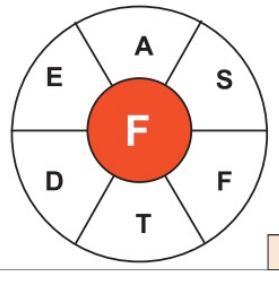
DOWN

1 Slogs; 2 Irish;
3 Seen U; 4 Begin;
5 Eaten

Mensapuzzle

What is missing from the bottom right hand circle?





Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

10 Average; 11 Good; 13 Outstanding

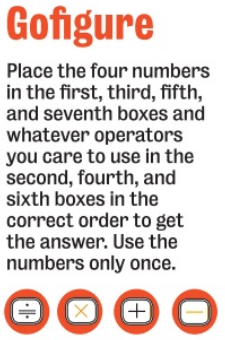
SudokuChallenge

	4	3	1		6	9	5	
1		5				7		6
		6	2		9	3		
3								2
		8	3		4	1		
8		2				6		1
	1	7	4		5	8	9	

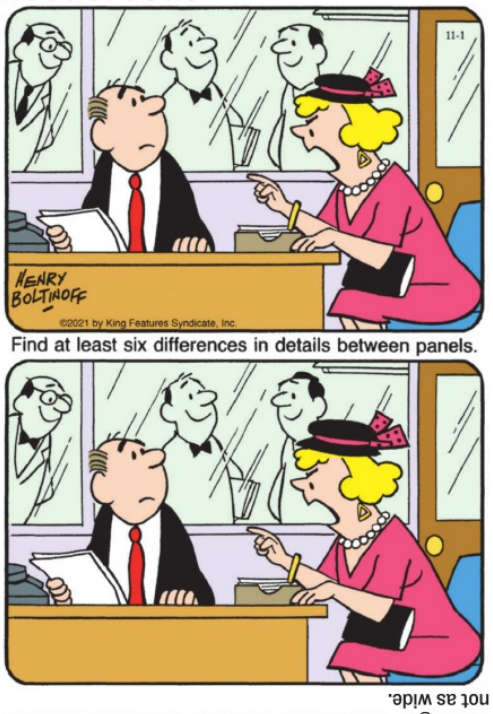
To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

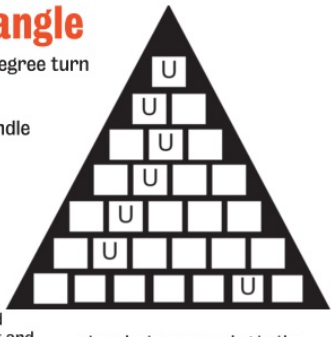
Differences: 1. Hand is moved. 2. Hat is larger. 3. Papers are longer. 4. Tie is different. 5. Hair is different. 6. Desk is not as wide.

Riddler

Fantastic Shade that's cast by death not light
Remaining Oft considered source of fright
Enchanted Perhaps been cursed by fearsome rite
Trapped Until it's freed from earthly plight.
What is it?

Alpha triangle

1 Describing a 180 degree turn
2 _____ and them
3 Bring to court
4 Deception, or swindle
5 More certain
6 Wave rider
7 Containing iron



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

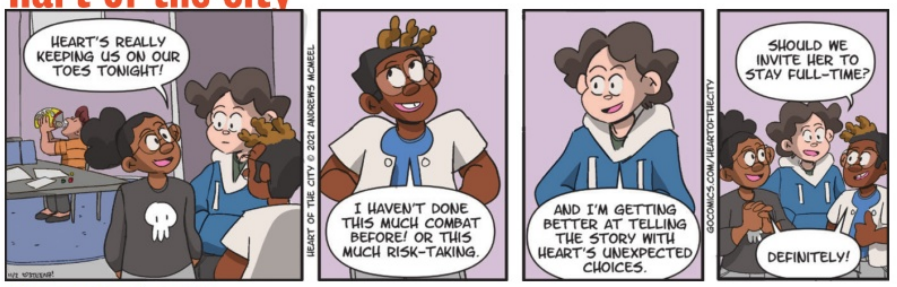
Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

So, I'm chasing him around this bush, and mind you, it's all in fun. Next thing I know, he hauls off and pops me.
Wayno & Piraro 10-29-21
©2021 Bizarro Studios
BIZARRO.COM Dist. by King Features

Diamond Lil

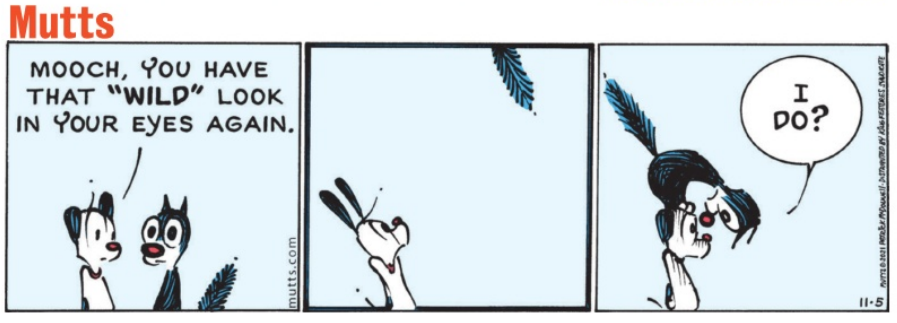
Hart of the city


HEART'S REALLY KEEPING US ON OUR TOES TONIGHT!
I HAVEN'T DONE THIS MUCH COMBAT BEFORE! OR THIS MUCH RISK-TAKING.
AND I'M GETTING BETTER AT TELLING THE STORY WITH HEART'S UNEXPECTED CHOICES.
SHOULD WE INVITE HER TO STAY FULL-TIME?
DEFINITELY!
HEART OF THE CITY © 2021 AUDREYS MCNEEL
@COMICS.COM/HEARTOTHECITY

Crankshaft

THE PROBLEM WITH THE TREES IS THAT THEY JUST KEEP DROPPING FOR WEEKS...
INSTEAD OF DROPPING ALL AT ONE TIME.
THERE OUGHT TO BE A WAY TO FIX THAT!
I'M GOING TO CHURCH TO PRAY!
© 2021 Mediagraphics, Inc. Dist. by North America Syndicate
BATIUK & DAVIS
10-18

Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you may get tired due to overworking. It may make you lazy and careless; you are advised to be patient. If you are planning for an adventure tour, you are advised to postpone it for a while. Your past investments may convert into dead stock. Students are advised to work hard. You may have backache, nervous system, liver-related issues and skin issues.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, your creativity may be high; you may plan to renovate your house. You may buy some stuff to renovate your house or office which may increase social status. There is likely to be some harmony with the spouse; it will create harmony in domestic life. Disputes with friends, co-workers and partners may settle down. You may get good news in terms of litigations.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you will be glad; you will be able to maintain a balance between your earning and expenditure which will boost your finances. Your network will help you implement your plans. Your siblings and subordinate staff will be more helpful today. You may plan to visit elders or some religious place.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today, you may feel dull due to sleeplessness, you may be fickle towards your goals. This may affect your working efficiency; you may plan to visit some religious place. But in late evening, you may be blessed by your elders; you may find out your mistakes and make a good plan for the coming day. You are advised to take care of your parent's health.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today, until late afternoon, you may feel dullness in your nature which may reflect in your way of working. But with the help of elder's blessings, you are likely to come back to your speed. You are likely to pay extra attention to kid's health. You will be in a winning position against your enemies and opponents. Investors should be careful while taking difficult decisions. Stomach issues may make you upset.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be happy at work. You are likely to take some important decisions by the end of the day which will help you in the near future. You may plan for a short trip also. Your subordinates are likely to be cooperative. You may expect some good news in terms of sibling's success. You may likely to be in winning positions of legal matters also. Students may be more focused to achieve their targets.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today, your communication skills may help you on the professional front. You are likely to be more polite with everyone around you which may help you to speed up your projects. Lovebirds are likely to exchange their views with each other which may build some foundation of their relationship.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you will be blessed by the moon. New partnerships may give you benefits. Your energy level is likely to be high. Your hard work and enthusiasm may pay off in terms of financial gains. Self-respect may protect you from negative people around you.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are likely to meet some old friends or be busy in social get-togethers. You may be more excited today. New innovations may be there in terms of business. You're likely to have some unexpected material gains. Kids may give good news in terms of studies. Lovebirds may enjoy their quality moments.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you will be blessed by the moon, small investments may convert to big profits. Your working efficiency may be increased now. You are likely to get success with less effort. You may hear good news in legal matters also. You may have full control over your opponents and rivals.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, you will be blessed by the moon; small efforts may give you success. You are likely to have good profits in your past investments. You may get rewards for your hard work in professional and domestic life. Your prestige may increase now. You may start some new innovation in business. Disputes with the spouse may be resolved now.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, you may feel better; situation may be under control. Your network may help you on the work front. You may plan for overseas travel. This is a good time to increase domestic harmony and love life. With the help of creativity; you may bring some artefacts or creative stuff for family. You may also plan watching movies or go for outings with friends or family.

KIDZONE

Isha Deshpande, 9 Years, Bangalore

Niharikaa Periwaal, 6 Years, Vidya Sagar Nurture

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
5-1=4

RIDDLER
Ghost

QUOTE UNCODE
Formula for success: rise early, work hard, strike oil.

S	I	E	G	E				
S	H	U	N	T				
O	S	S	I	A				
L	I	N	E	N				
G	R	E	B	E				

FAST FIVE

BULL'S EYE
daft, deaf, deft, fade, fast, fasted, fate, fated, feast, feat, safe, staff, STAFFED

STRIKE OUT

C	O	N	C	O	C	T	A	C	I	D	S			
L	U	P	R	O	B	O	T	E						
I	N	D	I	A	N	A	S	N	O	O	D			
N	I	L	C	I				E						
G	U	S	T	S	E	L	E	C	T	O	R			
O	T	O	D	I	C			R						
N	A	S	S	A	U	D	E	M	E	A	N			
P	A	N	A	C	H	E	R	E	B	E	C			
G	O	C	T	O	M	U								
F	O	G	A											
L	O	W	L	Y	R	E	L	E	A	S	E			
R	D	E	S	H	S									
S	P	I	N	A	C	H	O	F	T	E	N			
A	N													
A	B	R	A	D	I	N	G							
N	O													
E	N	D												
R	A	G	E											
S	A													
H	E	G	R											

QUICK

S	S	A	S	H	K									
F	A	M	O	U	S	T	R	A	V	E	L			
R	N	K	O	R	E									
A	I	M	S	A	B	R	A	D	I	N	G			
A	N	Y	O	N										
S	N	A	R	E	S	D	E	N	T	A	L			
U	E	A	I	I	D									
C	O	N	V	E	N	E	S	R	O	A	N			
F	O	G	A											
L	O	W	L	Y	R	E	L	E	A	S	E			
R	D	E	S	H	S									
S	P	I	N	A	C	H	O	F	T	E	N			
A	N													
A	B	R	A	D	I	N	G							
N	O													
E	N	D												
R	A	G	E											
S	A													
H	E	G	R											

MENSA PUZZLE
253. Starting at the top left, and moving through the diagram in a Z shape, double each number and add 3 to give the next number along.

SUDOKU

7	6	9	5	3	8	2	1	4
2	4	3	1	7	6	9	5	8
1	8	5	9	4	2	7	3	6
4	7	6	2	1	9	3	8	5
3	9	1	8	5	7	4	6	2
5	2	8	3	6	4	1	7	9
8	5	2	7	9	3	6	4	1
6	1	7	4	2	5	8	9	3
9	3	4	6	8	1	5	2	7

ALPHA TRIANGLE
U, Us, Sue, Ruse, Surer, Surfer, Ferrous.

GO FIGURE
Easy
9 – 7 – 2 + 1 = 1
Medium
3 x 5 x 3 – 7 = 38
Hard
4 – 2 x 5 x 3 = 30

LOOP

KAKURO

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2022, HERE WE ARE

A year of glitz

If 2021 managed to give superhits despite covid, 2022 is going to be a bigger year for film-lovers

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Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar's James is up for release and so is KGF Chapter 2

Indian film industry, particularly in the South, is slowly recovering from the disruptions caused by the pandemic. This year, some of the big releases brought the film buffs back to the theatres. Even with the covid-19 scare, Sandalwood saw some superhit movies in 2021. 2022 is the most expected year for the filmgoers as the biggest releases are awaiting a conducive situation to cash on box offices. Undoubtedly, the biggest movie in Indian cinema produced from Sandalwood is KGF Chapter 2 which is scheduled to release in April.

After the sad demise of Power Star Puneeth Rajkumar, his last movie James is expected to release in 2022. Sudeep is already geared up for publicity to upcoming Pan-India cinema Vikrant Rona. Upendra and Sudeep joined hands in Kabzaa. It is another Pan-India cinema directed by R Chandru. Shivarajukumar's Bairaagee created lots of expectations. After Pogaru Dhruva Sarja started working in Martin. This movie is also expected to release in 2022.

Darshan is returning in a big way by Kranti which is directed by V Harikrishna and produced by Shylaja Nag and B Suresha who earlier produced Yajamana with Darshan. Jaggesh's Totapuri, Ramesh Aravind's Shivaji Suratkal-2, Sharan's Guru Shisyaru, Ganesh's Tribble Riding, Rakshit Shetty's Charlie 777, Rana's Ek Love Ya, Darling Krishna's Love Mocktail 2, Risahb Shetty's Bell Bottom 2, are other movies likely to release in 2022.

Tollywood is already prepared for releasing its most anticipated movie of the year, Rajamouli's RRR. Victory Venkatesh's F3 and Pawan Kalyan's Bheemla Nayak were postponed to accommodate this movie. Megastar fans can celebrate this year as there are two movies this year- Acharya and Godfather. Acharya is directed by Koratala Siva. Godfather that is a remake of Malayalam Lucifer is also expected to release in 2022. In Kollywood, Maniratnam's biggest movie of the year multi-starrer Ponniyin Selvan is expected to release in 2022.

TOP HEALTH QUERY THIS WEEK

Signs that you need a health check

ANSWERED BY MFINE'S GENERAL PHYSICIAN

Irregular bowels
Sudden weight change
Appetite change
Constant lethargy

Scan QR code to get special New Year offer on Health Checks

mfine

The big Harry Potter film reunion

Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint, stars of the 'Harry Potter' film franchise, opened up about reuniting with the film's cast for HBO Max's 'Harry Potter 20th Anniversary: Return to Hogwarts'.

Tales of Inspiration

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From an IAS aspirant to successful food entrepreneur

Dreams may not always turn into reality, but life has its own way of rewarding those who are perseverant. Ningaraju, a successful entrepreneur today, wanted to be an IAS officer. But fate had other designs for him. Instead of bossing over as an IAS officer, Ningaraju runs and owns a lucrative Biryani business in Bengaluru.

His IAS dreams shattered due to extreme poverty, Ningaraju chose to tread the path of the food industry to meet ends. What started as a mobile canteen a few years ago is now a sprawling hotel in the posh Jayanagar locality. The Halli Jonne Biryani Hotel has become a hotspot for biryani lovers in and around the area.

Steaming hot and fresh biryani

The biryanis served at the Halli Jonne Biryani Hotel are steaming hot and made of fresh ingredients, says Ningaraju. The stocks are lifted on a daily basis and biryanis are prepared according to the demand which makes it a favourite among the masses.

Self-taught chef

Ningaraju is not a trained chef nor has he worked under any specialist cook. In that sense he is a self-taught chef. That he was a foodie has helped him develop a good taste for food. The biryanis he had from the food corners to star hotels formed a base for his own style of biryani and people just love it.

Wishing all our customers a Happy New Year

Donne or Jonne?

The word Jonne for the hotel is a point of discussion among the customers as it is Donne which is more familiar with the people. The place where he sources the plantain leaf donne, it is called as jonne, hence the name, says Ningaraju.

Mouthwatering menu

Menu: Chicken and Mutton Biryani along with Chicken Fry, Mutton Fry, Kebab, Leg soup, Khali Dose, Mallige Idli, Mutton Keema Gojju

#44/4, 13th Main, Opp. BHS College, Jayanagar 4th Block East, Bangalore - 11

Timings
7am to 4.30pm
7pm to 10pm

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